



## News Release

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# Unmet Demand for Afterschool Programs Among Hispanic Families at an All-Time High

*Survey of 4,700+ Hispanic Parents Finds Strong Satisfaction with the Programs Their Children Attend, But Cost, Accessibility, Availability Limit Afterschool Participation*

Washington, D.C. – Nearly four in five Hispanic children across the United States whose parents want an afterschool program for them (78%) are missing out. The parents of more than 8.9 million Hispanic children report they would like to enroll their child in an afterschool program, but just 1.9 million Hispanic children are currently enrolled, leaving nearly 7 million Hispanic children behind. That puts unmet demand among Hispanic families at the highest level that has been recorded since the [America After 3PM](#) study began in 2004.

Those are among the findings from a household survey commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, conducted by Edge Research and released today. [America After 3PM for Hispanic Families](#) also finds that 96% of Hispanic parents with a child in an afterschool program are satisfied with the program, with 85% rating its quality as excellent or very good. Nine in ten Hispanic parents (90%) favor public funding for afterschool programs – an even higher percentage than among U.S. parents overall.

The barriers to enrollment for many Hispanic parents are cost, no safe way to get children to and from programs, inconvenient locations and hours, long waiting lists, and a lack of programs in their communities. As is the case with White and Black families, Hispanic families with higher incomes are more likely to be able to enroll their children in afterschool programs than Hispanic families with lower incomes (for Hispanic families, 18% vs. just 10% are enrolled). The average cost Hispanic parents report paying for their child's afterschool program is \$122 per week.

“These findings are profoundly disturbing. We are missing a vitally important opportunity to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and giving working parents peace of mind that their children are safe, supervised, and learning after the school day ends,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “We can overcome these barriers with greater investments in afterschool programs from federal, state, and local governments, businesses and philanthropy – and we must. Our country will be stronger and more successful when all children can take advantage of the many supports afterschool programs offer. Every child deserves access to a quality afterschool program.”

The Trump Administration has recommended defunding 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. Congress has yet to finalize the FY2026 budget.

Other findings from *America After 3PM for Hispanic Families*:

- 86% of Hispanic parents agree that afterschool programs allow kids to develop social skills and the ability to make responsible decisions, 84% agree they allow kids to develop positive relationships with other students; and 76% agree they allow kids to form meaningful relationships with caring staff.
- 79% say afterschool program participation helps children become more excited about learning, and 80% agree they help kids develop interests and skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).
- Even more (81%) of Hispanic parents say afterschool programs support children's mental health and well-being.
- 79% agree afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors, and 78% that they keep kids safe and out of trouble.
- 82% say afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.
- Most Hispanic parents with a child in an afterschool program are happy with the activities and supports provided, including helping their child build their confidence (86%) and develop communication, teamwork, and critical thinking skills (82%).

[\*America After 3PM\*](#) is based on a survey of 30,515 U.S. parents or guardians with a school-aged child living in their household, including 4,781 Hispanic households. It was conducted in English and Spanish using a mixed-mode methodology to reach as many households as possible. Data were collected between January 31 and April 21, 2025. The margin of error for the child- and household-level data is +/- 1.42%. Previous *America After 3PM* surveys were conducted in 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2020.

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*The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*